

**Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Tours  
Las Positas College in Livermore, Highlighting  
its Role in Educating California's Future Workforce**



Lt. Governor John Garamendi talks to a packed room of students at Las Positas College. (Photo by B. Willon).

**LIVERMORE** – As part of his ongoing “listening tour” of California’s public colleges, Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today visited Las Positas College to talk to students and faculty about the important role California’s community colleges play in educating our future workforce and retraining unemployed Californians.

Garamendi said that the recent cuts to higher education, hikes in student tuition, and cutbacks in enrollment are putting California’s workforce in jeopardy and leaving California unprepared to deal with an economy increasingly reliant on a post-high school education.

“We have lost our way,” Lieutenant Governor Garamendi said before a packed auditorium of students. “We have lost our understanding that education is the single most important investment for our future workforce in this state.”

Garamendi toured the campus, seeing several new construction projects funded by a local bond measure. The new construction includes a child development center where instruction and childcare for students will be provided, a college center for the arts, and new sports complexes. The campus has an instructional vineyard and also hopes to be the first community college in

the state to get off the power grid through green technology advances including wind turbines.

Adjusted for inflation, student fees at UC and CSU have more than doubled since 1990, while student fees at California's community colleges have more than tripled. Because of budget cuts to the systems, UC has cut fall 2009 freshman enrollment by 2,300 students, and CSU has cut fall 2009 freshman enrollment by 10,000 students.

If an additional two percent of Californians earned associate's degrees and another one percent earned bachelor's degrees, California's economy would grow by \$20 billion, our state and local tax revenues would increase by \$1.2 billion a year, and 174,000 new jobs would be created. Of the 4.5 million new jobs that will be available by 2025, it is estimated that 3.5 million will require at least a bachelor's degree.